



Rep. Sonya M. Harper

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LRB103 25599 RLC 58088 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 3240

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 3240 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Organic Transition Pilot Program Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

7 "Department" means the Department of Agriculture.

8 "Director" means the Director of Agriculture.

9 "Limited resource farmer" has the meaning ascribed to it
10 in 7 CFR 760.107.

11 "Socially disadvantaged farmer" means a farmer who is a
12 member of a socially disadvantaged group.

13 "Socially disadvantaged group" means a group whose members
14 have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice
15 because of their identity as members of a group without regard
16 to their individual qualities. These groups include all of the

1 following:

2 (1) African Americans.

3 (2) Native Indians.

4 (3) Alaskan Natives.

5 (4) Hispanics.

6 (5) Asian Americans.

7 (6) Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

8 "Urbanized area", as used by the United States Census
9 Bureau, refers to a population of at least 50,000 people.

10 Section 10. Organic Transition Pilot Program.

11 (a) On or before July 1, 2024, the Department shall
12 develop and oversee, for a period of 5 years, the Organic
13 Transition Pilot Program. The pilot program shall support the
14 economic viability of farmers, prioritizing limited resource
15 and socially disadvantaged farmers, by providing incentives,
16 including, but not limited to, grants, research, technical
17 assistance, and educational materials and outreach, to farmers
18 who intend to transition land to organic certification under
19 the federal Organic Foods Production Act of 1990.

20 (b) The Director shall appoint a Farmer Equity Advisor to
21 administer the pilot program and ensure that the pilot program
22 meets the objectives of this Act.

23 (c) In providing incentives under the pilot program, the
24 Department shall do all of the following:

25 (1) Provide incentives to socially disadvantaged

1 farmer applicants who self-certify their intent to farm
2 organically.

3 (2) If there are moneys available after providing
4 incentives under paragraph (1), provide incentives to
5 those limited resource farmer applicants who self-certify
6 their intent to farm organically.

7 (3) If there are moneys available after providing
8 incentives under paragraphs (1), provide incentives to any
9 farmer applicants who self-certify their intent to farm
10 organically.

11 (d) (1) Applicants with year-to-year leases may participate
12 in the pilot program.

13 (2) Repeat applicants may participate in the pilot
14 program.

15 (3) If selected to receive an incentive, an applicant may
16 receive advance payment of that incentive.

17 (4) The Department shall prioritize the provision of
18 incentives to new applicants.

19 (e) The following expenses are eligible for incentives
20 under the pilot program:

21 (1) Organic seeds and starts.

22 (2) Organic livestock, poultry, and related expenses.

23 (3) Organic feed.

24 (4) Soil building supplies.

25 (5) Compost.

26 (6) Compost building or generating supplies.

- 1 (7) Compost structures supplies.
- 2 (8) Organic fertilizer and pest control.
- 3 (9) Organic integrated pest management supplies.
- 4 (10) Hedgerow and ecosystem enhancement planting and
5 design.
- 6 (11) Hiring consultants for translation services,
7 certification, business planning, and agronomic practices
8 as they pertain to organic farming certification.
- 9 (12) Inspection and certification fees.
- 10 (13) Educational materials on organic certification
11 and production.
- 12 (14) Development of an organic system plan.
- 13 (15) Farm supplies and repair.
- 14 (16) Other expenses deemed necessary by the Director
15 that further the pilot program.
- 16 (f) The Director shall make available not less than 15% of
17 the moneys appropriated to the Department for purposes of the
18 pilot program to technical service providers with organic
19 expertise, including, but not limited to, the University of
20 Illinois Extension, conservation districts, and nonprofits for
21 any of the following purposes:
- 22 (1) Providing organic-specific technical assistance as
23 defined in 24 CFR Part 570, training, organic
24 certification support, financial and farm planning,
25 communication support, program recruitment, recordkeeping
26 support, support with the application process, and

1 translation support to limited resource and socially
2 disadvantaged farmers.

3 (2) Establishing a mentorship program for organic
4 farmers to support transitioning farmers.

5 (3) Supporting annual information sharing for the
6 continuous improvement of program guidelines, application
7 processes, and relevant organic research.

8 (4) Developing capacity and expertise of technical
9 assistance providers to support limited resource and
10 socially disadvantaged farmers to transition to organic
11 farming.

12 (g)(1) On or before January 1, 2025, and annually
13 thereafter until a report has been submitted that covers the
14 conclusion of the pilot program, the Department shall submit a
15 report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the outcome
16 of the pilot program.

17 (2) The report shall include, but is not limited to, all of
18 the following:

19 (A) The number of grants awarded, including the number
20 of grants awarded to socially disadvantaged farmers.

21 (B) The amount of funds awarded.

22 (C) The number of grant awardees who obtained organic
23 certification.

24 (D) The names of the technical assistance providers
25 that received grants, and a summary of the technical
26 assistance they provided.

1 (3) The Department shall post the reports submitted under
2 paragraph (1) on the Department's website.

3 Section 15. Comprehensive market analysis.

4 (a) On or before July 1, 2024, the Department shall
5 conduct a comprehensive statewide market analysis of the total
6 economic impacts of Illinois' organic products sector.

7 (b) The market analysis shall, at a minimum, do all of the
8 following:

9 (1) Compile employment and wage data connected to
10 production, distribution, and sales of organic products in
11 Illinois.

12 (2) Assess the economic impacts of Illinois's organic
13 trade sectors.

14 (3) Evaluate revenues that the Illinois State
15 government derives from the Illinois organic products
16 sector.

17 (4) Identify and assess economic and growth
18 opportunities related to Illinois organic products and
19 trade.

20 (c) The Department shall post the market analysis on its
21 website.

22 Section 20. Repeal. This Act is repealed on January 1,
23 2030."